



Founded July 24, 1968 and
designated a 501(c)(3) in July 1971

Truckee-Donner Historical Society
P.O. Box 893
Truckee, CA 96160
530-582-0893
www.truckeehistory.org

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Letter From the Editor

Dear Members:

Now that winter *finally* came - and is hopefully moving on - Truckee-Donner Historical Society is getting ready and gearing up for the very busy summer months.

In preparation for the summer, the Society will be concentrating on cleaning up the Memorial Garden behind the Old Jail Museum and preparing for the opening of the Museum around Memorial Day weekend. One of the highlights of the beginning of the summer is the visit from our local third graders who just love visiting the Old Jail Museum, getting acquainted with some of our local historical figures, and even getting locked in the jail cell for a few minutes.

The Old Timers' Picnic will be held in July as usual and we are always energized by the stories and memories.

The Society has received numerous physical donations and we have been very busy investigating, cataloging, and organizing these collections. In addition, we have also received hundreds of donated images which we are also reviewing. In many cases, these images must be first scanned in order to determine the appropriate connection to Truckee and approximate time frame. These kinds of activities are extremely time-consuming and our busy volunteers are maximizing their available

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time to assist in these most important efforts. We made a decision to concentrate on addressing the oldest photos first, and those in the most fragile state.

Using these images we have received from various donated collections, we have been uploading various collections to our online **Image Collection** available at this link. While we have hundreds of images, many already scanned, there are hundreds more yet to be reviewed.

We'll be sure to keep you informed of upcoming events as dates are set.

CALENDAR

Events will be posted online at our website

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Echoes From The Past Newsletter

2017-2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD*President*[Chaun L. Owens-Mortier](#)*Vice President*[Karl Pape](#)*Recording Secretary*[Patricia Featherstone](#)*Corresponding Secretary*[Billie Cornell](#)*Treasurer*[Katie Holley](#)**BOARD MEMBERS**

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Truckee Donner Historical Society ("TDHS") Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Joseph Research Library at 10115 Donner Trail Road, Truckee. Board meetings are open to the public.

TDHS does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information in these articles.

TDHS retains the right to republish submitted material. Please contact TDHS for permission to use any content in this publication.

Notice to Members

In 2015, the TDHS Board of Directors approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the Society's bi-annual renewal schedule - January or July. For specific details, please visit our website.

We hope you have been continuing to enjoy this quarterly newsletter. We realize that sometimes printed copies are much easier to grab, but we will continue to distribute our Newsletter electronically. As always, the newsletter will be readily available online and accessible on a quarterly basis. If you are a TDHS member, an email will be sent to you advising you of posting.

Editor's Note: This Newsletter is interactive - it is designed to be read *online* and contains links to relevant source material and in many cases, links to larger images for easier viewing.

SAVE THE DATE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND
RE-DEDICATION OF THE PIONEER MONUMENT

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2018

DEDICATION 11AM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES 12-4 PM

CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISING GALA 6 PM



HOSTED BY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS &
SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

For more information: 530-583-9911



Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society (TDHS). The only way we can offer programs and events is if YOU, as a volunteer, step up and get involved. TDHS is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization so any and all donations are gratefully appreciated and tax deductible.

Our mailing address is Truckee Donner Historical Society,
P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.

C.F. McGlashan's Relationship with the Chinese in Truckee*

By Dr. Barbara Czerwinski and Heidi Sproat

In the late 1800s there were growing concerns that the Chinese population which remained in Truckee after the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad needed to vacate the area because of perceived increased employment competition and apparent advantages for the Chinese. White male workers who remained in the area following the railroad's construction felt threatened by the continued Chinese presence.

Between 1850 and 1906 there were widespread movements designed to rid the United States of the Chinese. Primarily on the West Coast, there were numerous roundups of Chinese immigrants in California, Oregon and Washington. Truckee was among the localities where these actions occurred (Sandmeyer, 1939/1991, Goldstein, 1988, Hagaman, 2004 and Pfaelzer, 2007). Based on a response to perceived economic fears, especially on the West Coast, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 (Chinn, 1969) was the first major federal law restricting immigration to the United States (Keith, 2015, and Hilfinger-Messias, et al., 2015). The 1879 California Constitution Article XIX served as a model for the federal 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act (Swatt, S., 2015). In 1885, Charles Fayette McGlashan was elected to the California State Assembly representing Nevada County, in part because of his anti-Chinese sentiments (McKinney, Gage, 2009).

Local municipalities used various hostile techniques for Chinese removal that, sadly, included acts of violence such as riot, murder and fire. During 1885 to 1886, however, the Truckee community, under the leadership of the newspaper editor and lawyer, McGlashan, was the first community in the West to stage an *economic* boycott that became known as the "Truckee Method" (Hagaman, 2004, p.11). [The term "boycott" was coined from an economic and political sanction arising in County Mayo, Ireland

relating to the 1880 ostracism of Charles Boycott, a land agent.] The *Truckee Method* entailed forcing local merchants to let their Chinese workers go and hire Caucasian workers instead. This method was almost entirely legal; it took about two months to force out Chinese workers from Truckee. McGlashan subsequently went to other communities to promote Truckee's success with removal of the Chinese by economic means rather than violence.

Later, McGlashan would tell his daughter, June, that he had "come to regret it [the Chinese exclusion] bitterly" (McGlashan, M. Nona (1977), page 144). McGlashan lived a rich and productive life that reflected his times and the contemporary values of society (Duane, 1999).

The only remaining physical vestige of the Chinese presence is the Old Chinese Herb Shop located at the corner of Southeast River Street and Brockway Road on the south bank of the Truckee River. The original location of the Chinese settlement had been below McGlashan's Mansion, west of Spring Street and north of Donner Pass Road.

During the early 1900s, McGlashan was proposed to run for Governor but declined the offer in favor of James Norris Gillett. Gillett became a one term Governor, January 9, 1907 to January 3, 1911. During Gillett's term, he appointed the first State Architect, George C. Sellon, who was the architect for the Truckee Veterans Memorial Building.

* This article was originally written in early 2017 in support of an Application for National Historic Status of Truckee Veterans Memorial Building. This is an excerpt from the original Application which was subsequently revised and this section was not included in the submitted revision.

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McGlashan and Chinese article continued p. 4

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Photographs of Chinese Expulsion Sites can be found at website *Photographs of Chinese Expulsion Sites*, link, accessed August 29, 2016



Photos courtesy of Ed Czerwinski

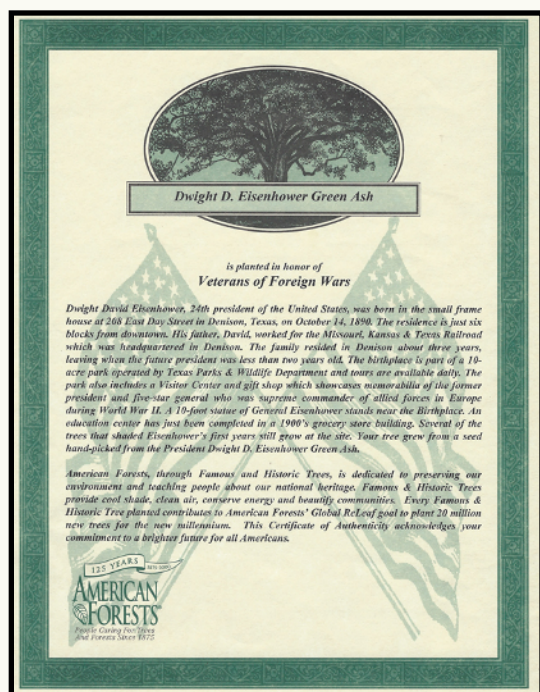
Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Eisenhower Tree

By Ron Rettig

While reorganizing various files, I came across several images of an "Eisenhower Tree" and wondered to what they referred. More digging, and we discovered these photos as well. If anyone knows more details, please contact the Society.

To see a larger image of this Certificate, click on the image



In the book *Planting Nature, Trees and the Manipulation of Environmental Stewardship in America*, by Shaul E. Cohen, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2004 p. 96, there is reference to a program called **Operation Silent Witness** (*American Forests* 107, no. 1 (Spring 2001)). A memorial campaign, designed to "remember a world at war," dealt with the Eisenhower green ash trees. This program was purportedly inaugurated in Washington's Arlington National Cemetery and spread to 10,000* Veterans of Foreign Wars posts throughout the country. The intent was to connect "patriotism with commemoration" and was then spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Millennium Green Project.

The Certificate that TDHS received from American Forests 1875-2000 states: "Your tree grew from a seed hand-picked from the President Dwight D. Eisenhower green Ash." This program's goal was to plant 20 million

new trees for the new millennium. This effort occurred between Memorial Day (May 28th) and D-Day (June 6th) in 2001. It is possible that the photos below may somehow relate to this Certificate.

* Various sources quote the number of participating VFW Posts at 2,500 Posts; others quote 10,000. Sources:

<https://goo.gl/Xbs9PG>

Planting Nature, Trees and the Manipulation of Environmental Stewardship in America, by Shaul E. Cohen, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2004 p. 96



These arrows indicate the possible site of the seedling and its growth.

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Truckee's Historic Masonic Arch**By Judy DePuy**

Carved by Masonic craftsmen at the dawn of the 20th century, the historic arch in Old Town Truckee signifies the influence and history of the Truckee Freemasons. The chiseled stones once were part of the entry arch to the Truckee Masonic Lodge, the 200th and one of the oldest established lodges in the U.S. The white stone archway, with each stone weighing around 250 pounds and measuring 17" high by 12" wide, now resides next to the Old Jail Museum in Truckee. The top stone archway, known as a keystone, is etched with the lodge's symbol of a square and a compass. The total arch is a 3000 pound Sierra granite tribute to the early Masons in Truckee.

To find out how and when the Arch got here, you have to look back to the early history of the Masons in Truckee.

Many Masons camped at what is now known as Truckee. In 1844, Dr. John Townsend, the first established doctor in California and a member of the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party helped bring the first wagons through the Sierra Nevada. Standing on what was to be Truckee's townsite, he prophesied that a railroad would pass this way some day. With him were Moses Schallenberger and John M. Murphy who were also members of the San Jose Masonic Lodge.

In 1869, Truckee was an important railroad station with two major historical events:

- 1) On May 10, 1869, the golden spike was driven to join the rails from the East and West in Promontory, Utah, and
- 2) On May 15, 1869, a group of Truckee Masons were granted a dispensation by Charles March, Grand Master of Masons in California, to start a lodge. Five months later, on October 14, 1869, Truckee Lodge No. 200 was given its charter.

The Truckee Lodge was named after an Indian chief and scout who had accompanied John C. Fremont on some of his expeditions in the West. [The Indian scout

told the members of the Murphy-Townsend-Stevens party how to cross the Sierras following a certain river to its source at the lake in the mountains.]

Due in part to the influence of the railroad on the town, the Masonic membership consisted of many transient railroad workers. A steady group of Truckee business and professional men kept the charter open and were recognized as respected, solid citizens of the community. The Masons not only helped build the Truckee community but also carried out the Masonic tradition of always endeavoring to make good men better.

An early Truckee Mason and leading Truckee resident and publisher of *The Truckee Republican*, Charles Fayette McGlashan (who was also a school teacher and lawyer), was part of the Lodge and served as its Master in 1874. [McGlashan wrote the "History of the Donner Party" (published 1879). His infinite detail and personal interviews from the survivors of the Donner Party have been accepted as the authentic version of the historical tragedy of our early settlers.]

From 1869 to 1909, Truckee Lodge No. 200 met at the Truckee Knights of Pythias Hall. In 1910, they moved to a new Truckee Masonic Temple that was an imposing 3-story addition to the town's skyline. The lodge meeting room was on the top floor with a large ballroom and kitchen on the second (which also served as a theater, movie house and dance hall for the community). It was common during the heyday of the railroads that the opening of the lodge would be delayed until one of the trains arrived so the crew members who were Masons could fill the vacant officers' positions and confer the degrees.

In those days, many Masonic Lodges had arches to define the entry into the lodge. In 1909, the Truckee Masonic Arch was erected with the new building. The Arch is unique in that it is chiseled from Sierra granite. It has been a landmark in the Town of Truckee for over 100 years.

On November 30, 1993 a massive propane explosion occurred in the Lodge. It destroyed the building
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which had become a prominent fixture of the Town of Truckee and was always referred to as "the old Masonic building." [December 2, 1993 *Sierra Sun*, p. 1, "Downtown blast kills 1". Because the building had been constructed with a 2-3 foot layer of dirt between the floors as a fire deterrent, the fire did not spread to other buildings.]

The iconic Arch was destined for a landfill, along with the rest of the building's debris. But thanks to the Truckee Masons, the good people of Truckee and the Truckee-Donner Historical Society, the stones were saved after the 1993 explosion. Although they were "misplaced" for a while, the stones were re-located and stored at the old Truckee cemetery. Originally, it was intended to reconstruct the Arch at the cemetery, but the Truckee-Donner Historical Society offered to have the 23-stone entry placed next to the Old Truckee Jail. This allowed the Arch to be just 63 yards (and only 6" off a straight beeline) from its original location. "It's a part of our history - the only remaining part of the old Masonic lodge" said Master of the Lodge Gary Miner. "To be able to erect the Arch is like seeing the past - the old jail is the perfect place to view the history of Truckee." (*Sierra Sun*, September 4, 2007, p. 4)

Fourteen years after the explosion that destroyed the Masonic lodge, the Arch was erected in its new location at 10142 Jibboom Street, next to the Old Truckee Jail Museum. The Arch is a reminder of Truckee's earliest days, first as an outpost and then as a town. Twelve Masons attended the dedication, and as if on cue, the sound of a freight train's whistle punctuated the silence evoking the time a century ago when the Masons built the Truckee Lodge.

"This Masonic Arch is a crucial part of history and it should remain a part of the Town of Truckee" said Joe Aguera, Past Worshipful Master Truckee Lodge No. 200.

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Joe Aguera, Mason, Past Worshipful Master Truckee Lodge Number 200.

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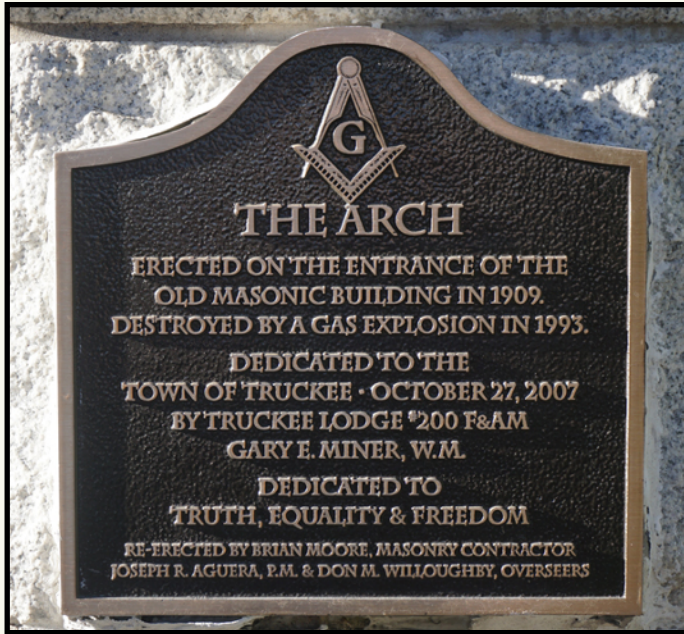


Photo courtesy of the Editor, 2014

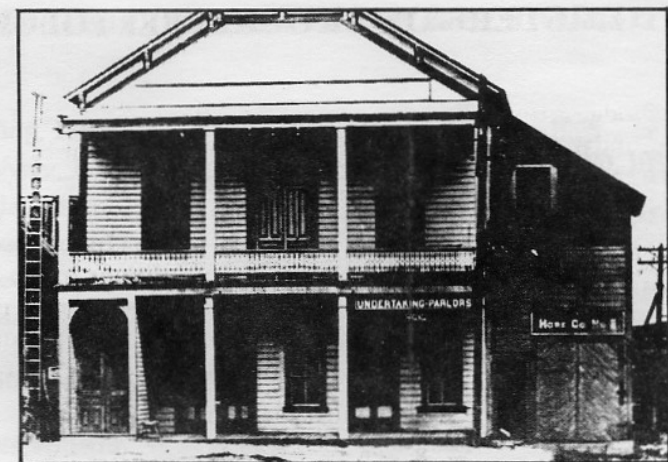
Masonic Arch images continue on page 8

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Masonic Arch images continued from page 7



(Above) Photos courtesy of the article author, 2018



TRUCKEE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL — 1869-1909

Extracted from brochure 125th Anniversary Observance of the Founding of Truckee Lodge Number 200 F.&A.M., September 10, 1994



(Above & below) Original location of the Masonic Arch; FTS0067, 1910



(Above) Masonic Lodge after 1993 Propane Explosion; COR2344

Masonic Arch article continued on page 9

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Masonic Arch article continued from page 8



(Above) Courtesy of Greg Zirbel and Google Earth showing location of original Masonic Arch and where it presently stands in 2018

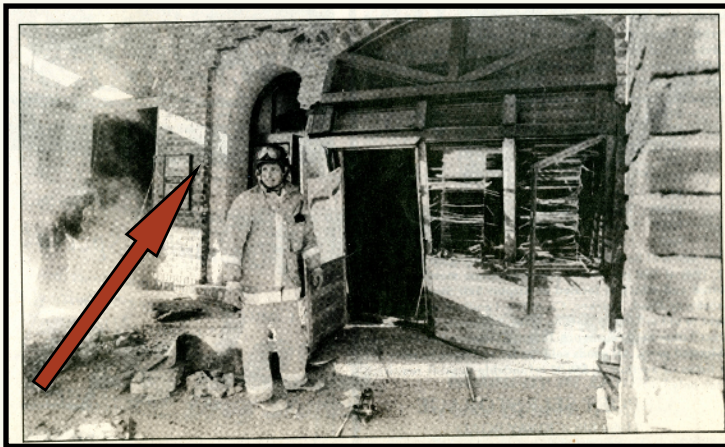
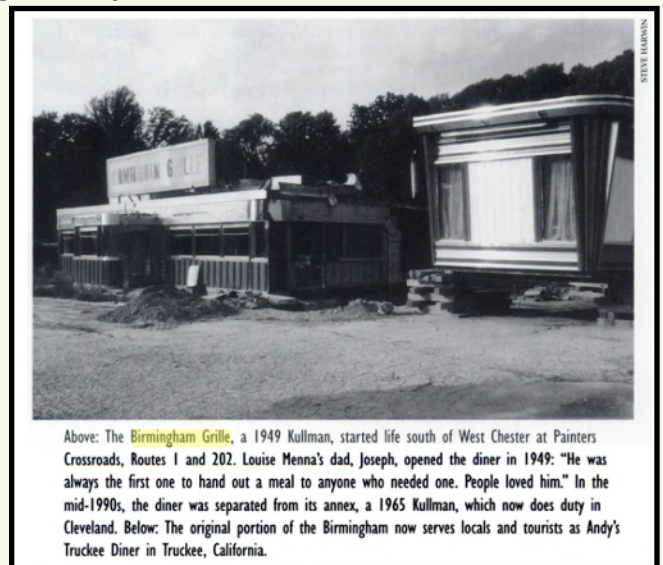


Photo courtesy of Bart Banks and KC Brown from December 2, 1993 *Sierra Sun* newspaper article, back page (scanned)

Did you know ...

Can you recognize these images of a Truckee landmark from 1995? The Editor came across these photos while researching the history of the building. A guess anyone?



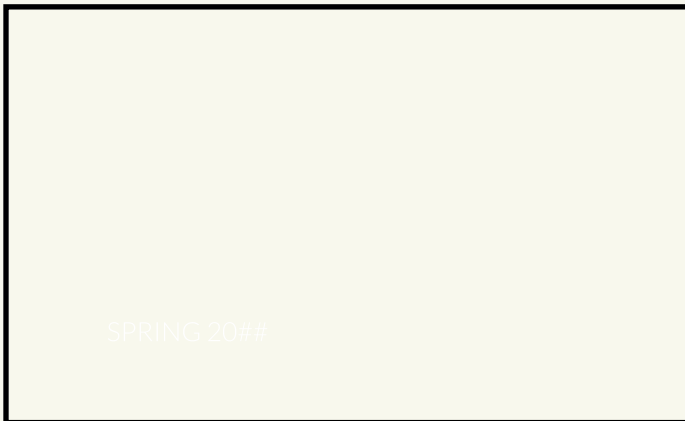
(Above & next page) Photos used with permission from Brian Butko, 2017

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Did you know? continued from page 9



(Above) The Birmingham Grille, originally located outside Philadelphia in West Chester, Pennsylvania; traveled across the United States destined for Truckee in 1995



SPRING 2017



In days gone by, restaurants used to give out matches for smokers and as a way for its customers to remember where they visited - clearly, a bygone practice; (above) Birmingham Grille match book cover

To see a larger image of these matchbox covers at right, click on the image to the right

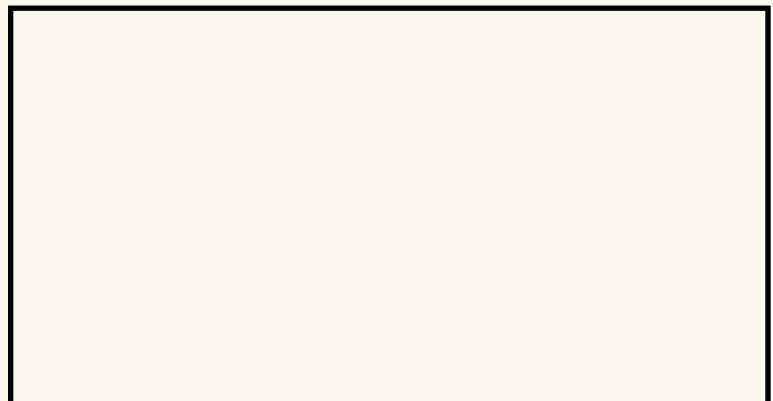
Update on National Historic Status Application

Two volunteers from the Truckee-Donner Historical Society submitted a Revised Application for designated national historical status for the Truckee Veterans Memorial Building and Rocking Stone Tower to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service in January 2018. The Application NPS 10-900 was 93 pages and included over 75 images, 49 footnotes, and consulted over 150 sources.

Image Collection Additions

To date, approximately 297 Hobart Mills images have been scanned and entered into our online Image Collection Database, 83 H.K. [Herman Kimball] Gage images, famous Truckee photographer, a few John Corbett images, and about two dozen Front Street images from various collections. If you haven't checked out our Image Collection yet, please get ready to view some 'oldies but goodies.'

As the Birmingham Grille match cover at left attests, collecting match books was something by which to remember the places you visited. Greg Zirbel's father, Robert, had quite a collection himself. How many can YOU recognize?



Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Update on Pullman Strike 1894

By Heidi Sproat

Searching through the California Digital Newspaper Collection for another article, the Editor came across this poem about the 1894 Pullman Strike and the presence of guard soldiers in Truckee to maintain peace and avoid any violence. You can also see this poem at this link.

CDNC, *Sacramento Daily Union*, 20 August 1894 Volume 87, Number 157 .

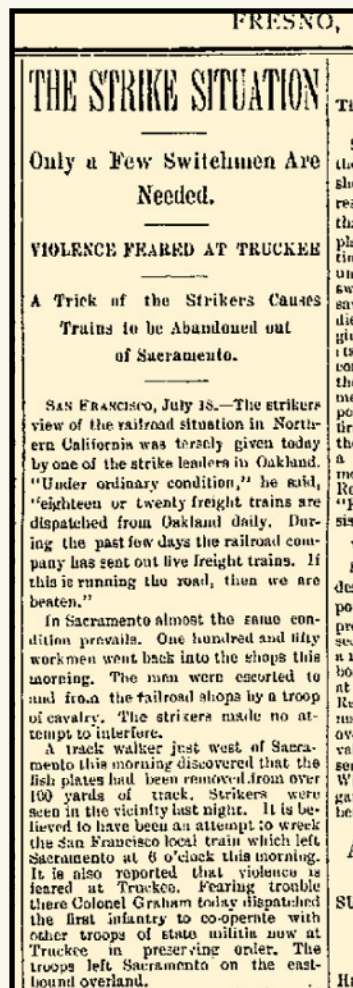
"What For?"

With Gatling gun and bayonet
And all the pomp of war
They came, and are staying' yet -
And people ask, "What for?"

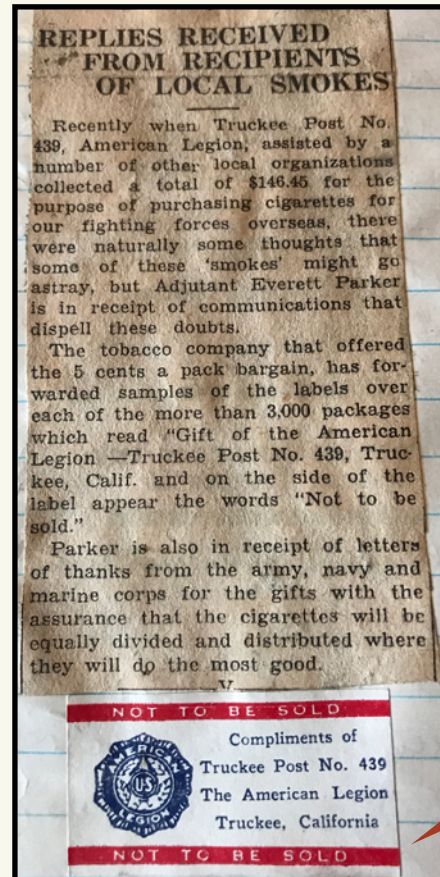
For neither station, switch nor nail,
Nor car, nor tie, nor wheel,
Nor engine - no; nor e'en a nail,
Did Truckee harm or steal."

This suggests that the presence of the troops had the desired effect.

And another 1894 article from Fresno, "Violence Feared at Truckee". Fearing trouble ... [in Truckee] ... Colonel ... dispatched the first infantry to co-operate with other troops of state militia now at Truckee in preserving order."



Unique Truckee "Smokes" Label



(Left) Looking through a 1940s leather-bound American Legion handwritten Minute book, we came across the following article about "smokes" for soldiers overseas with a unique Truckee label

Echoes From The Past Newsletter



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So what is this "QR CODE" or the squirrely-looking black & white icon

Some of you may be familiar with these strange looking icons. The black & white cross-hatched icon represents our new

website at truckeehistory.org. If you have a "smart" phone or iPad with a 'QR Reader,' all you need do is scan your device OVER the icon and you should be directed to our website. And what would one use this for? On any printed material, you could 'scan any QR code' and be taken to their website immediately. In our case, you can go immediately to our truckeehistory.org website and see the **Calendar** for upcoming events.



Membership Application | Renewal Form

I /WE want to JOIN or RENEW (circle one) MY/OUR MEMBERSHIP in the
TRUCKEE-DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.truckeehistory.org | info@truckeehistory.org | (530) 582-0893

Make checks payable to TDHS | Mail to: P.O. Box 893 Truckee, CA 96160|

Go Paperless* (check here) (☐) to receive eBill Renewals** and e-editions of our newsletters

*(a valid email address is required) ** Pay by Check or Credit Card (you choose your payment method)

For Renewals: Check if there are any changes below: (☐) If known, your existing renewal month: _____

MEMBERSHIP NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

Enclosed please find my check for: **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES** (please check one)

Individual \$20____ Family \$30____ Business \$40____

Non-Profit Organization \$25____ Sustaining \$75____ Contributing \$100____ Other Donation \$____

Select renewal month ____ **January or** ____ **July** (see TDHS website for membership details)

SPECIAL DONATIONS: Gift Membership \$____ In the Name of _____

MEMORIAL DONATION \$____ In Honor of _____

Other \$____ () Old Jail Museum () Joseph Research Library () _____

Contact me on ways I can volunteer (☐) Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail Museum? Yes / No

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: